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Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour
... a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

April Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term April average:

Great Lakes Basin 131%

Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair) 124%

Lake Superior 141%

Volume 10, Number 5 **May 9, 2002**

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Completes Year 1

Water Levels Increase on Each of the Great Lakes and at Montréal Harbour

Monthly mean water levels on each of the Great Lakes rose by more than anticipated from March to April. The level of Lake Ontario is above average, while levels on the other Great Lakes remain below average. Water levels on all lakes are higher than they were one year ago. The monthly mean level at Montréal Harbour rose significantly during April, but remains below average. Water levels on all of the Great Lakes are expected to continue their annual seasonal rise during May.

The monthly mean level of Lake Superior increased by 3 cm from March to April. Lake Superior began May about 11 cm below its long-term average level and 4 cm higher than it was at the same time last year.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose about 7 cm from March to April. The lakes remain about 34 cm below average. Water levels are about 24 cm higher than they were at the same time last year and are now above Chart Datum.

Lakes St. Clair and Erie levels rose slightly less than expected from February to March, increasing 3 and 5 cm, respectively. At the beginning of April, lakes St. Clair and Erie were 15 cm and 4 below average. Both lakes, however, are about 13 cm higher than they were one year ago. Lake Ontario's level rose slightly more than expected from February to March, increasing by 11 cm. The lake began April about 8 cm above average and about 12 cm higher than it was at the same time last year.

Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario levels rose a few centimetres more than expected from March to April, increasing 14, 18, and 19 cm, respectively. At the beginning of May, lakes St. Clair and Erie were 12 and 2 cm below average, respectively. Lake Ontario began May about 13 cm above average. All three lakes began May around 20 cm higher than they were at the same time last year.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 7.16 m during April, 38 cm below its period-of-record average level for the month, but 90 cm higher than it was during March and 161 cm above its Chart Datum level.

Lakes Michigan-Huron 126%

Lake Ontario 139%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

April Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term April average:

Lake Superior 93%

Lake Erie 101%

Lake Huron 89%

Lake Ontario 99%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

What Happened on Lake Superior?

If you're a regular reader of LEVELnews, or check water levels on the web, you may have noticed that although Lake Superior began April 2002 about 20 cm higher than it was at the same time last year it is now only about 4 cm above it's level of one year ago. To explain why this is the case, we need to compare how much the lake's level increased during April of this year with the increase it experienced during April of last year. Water levels on Lake Superior increased about 13 cm during April this year. Last year, on the other hand, levels increased 29 cm during the same period of time in response to record high rainfall combined with springtime runoff. Therefore, most of the 20 cm difference that existed at the beginning of April between this year's level and last year's level has been eliminated because water levels rose 16 cm less this April than they did last year.

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Completes Year 1

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence Study has been very busy over the last few months. The Technical Working Groups have completed their Year 1 studies, the Public Interest Advisory Group has spoken to over 33 interest groups in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River community, and the Study Board is busy working on their Year 1 Report for the International Joint Commission.

Remember that the St. Lawrence Board and other IJC Board web sites can be accessed at: http://www.ijc.org

Ripple Effects Newsletter

The second edition of Ripple Effects has been posted on the Study's website. The newsletter is now available for your convenience, as a downloadable PDF file, viewable as a webpage, or available in hard copy. If you would like to receive a printed copy of Ripple Effects, contact Amanda Morelli in Canada at: morellia@ottawa.ijc.org or Arleen Kreusch in the U.S. at: arleen.k.kreush@usace.army.mil.

A Different Look

They've also made some enhancements to the Study's website, so it's easier for you to find what you're looking for. Interested in what's been happening with the Technical Working Groups? Check out: http://www.losl.org/twg/techboards-e.html. Having trouble locating information? Like to make some suggestions? Have any compliments for the team? Let them know at: http://www.losl.org/contacts/feedback-e.html

Public Meeting

The International Lake Superior Board of Control will hold its annual meeting with the public at the Community Center in Paradise, Michigan on Tuesday, June 25, 2002 starting at 7:00 p.m. This Board oversees operation of the structure that controls the outflow from Lake Superior to Lake Huron.